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WASHINGTON POST
3 March 1986

Document File

WHO'S ON FIRST?

Today's document file is a needed corrective to what the Central Intelligence Agency rightly identified as an error in the Quiz that appeared on this page Feb. 24.

The Washington Post made the same error in its obituary of Admiral Sidney W. Souers on Jan. 18, 1973.

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27 February 1986

Mr. Leonard Downie, Jr.
Managing Editor
THE WASHINGTON POST
1150 15th Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear Len:

Your "Federal Report" page of 24 February gives the wrong answer to its quiz question, "Who was the first director of the Central Intelligence Agency?" It was not Rear Admiral Sidney W. Souers, as the quiz answer states, but rather Rear Admiral Roscoe H. Hillenkoetter.

Admiral Souers was indeed the first Director of Central Intelligence, taking charge of a new interdepartmental organization called the Central Intelligence Group from January to June 1946. But as you note elsewhere on the same page, the Central Intelligence Agency was not established until after Congress enacted the National Security Act of 1947. Admiral Hillenkoetter, the third Director of Central Intelligence, was the first director of CIA when it was formed on September 18, 1947.

I would appreciate THE POST running a correction.

Sincerely,

George [illegible] Cave
George [illegible] Cave
Director, Public Affairs

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